

distinction in the Armed Forces. Representative Norwood served as a Captain in the United States Army from 1967 to 1969, beginning with an assignment to the U.S. Army Dental Corps at Sandia Army Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1968, he was transferred to the Medical Battalion of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, and served a combat tour at Quin Yon, An Khe, and LZ English at Bon Son. During his tour, he participated in experimental military dental practices that are now standard procedure for the armed forces. Charlie Norwood was one of the first participants in the Army's outreach program that delivered dentists to forward firebases, instead of the previous practice of transferring patients to rear treatment areas. Interestingly, he also provided some of the first field-based dental treatment of military guard dogs, and assisted in non-dental trauma care in Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals.

In recognition of his service under combat conditions, Representative Norwood was awarded the Combat Medical Badge and two Bronze Stars. After Vietnam, Charlie was assigned to the Dental Corps at Fort Gordon, Georgia, where he served until his discharge in 1969. He remained a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Military Order of the World Wars until his recent tragic death.

I was honored to serve with this effective Representative from the 10th district of Georgia, was strengthened to draw from this intelligent individual's wealth of knowledge and insight, and have been blessed to know this vibrant and caring man, Charlie Norwood, as a friend. I support honoring his memory by this designation, and urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no future requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1808.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1315

MILO C. HUEMPFNER, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2408) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the "Milo C. Huempfer Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2408

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC, GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN.

The Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Green Bay, Wisconsin, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Milo C. Huempfer Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic". Any reference to such medical center in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Milo C. Huempfer Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my distinguished colleague from Wisconsin (Mr. KAGEN) to speak about the bill which he has authored to name the outpatient clinic in Green Bay, Wisconsin, after this great hero.

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of H.R. 2408, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Green Bay for Milo C. Huempfer, Brown County, Wisconsin's most highly decorated veteran of World War II, recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, second only to the Medal of Honor, the Bronze Star, and numerous other commendations.

Having cared for thousands of veterans as their physician, and now as their elected Representative, I would also like to thank the members of the leadership and the members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee who worked hard to bring this legislation to the floor today, especially Chairman FILNER. Thank you. And thank you as well to Ambassador Mark Green for beginning this good work.

We need to remember Milo C. Huempfer. He was a hero. His bravery, his dedication to others and his selflessness to serve is a beacon to guide all of us today.

Milo served in one of the best trained units in the U.S. Army, the elite 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion. It was a unit where courage was common. Yet even in this company, Milo distinguished himself.

Milo Huempfer was literally a one-man army. For 2 days in December of 1944, Milo Huempfer was literally a one-man army. He singlehandedly waged war against a German tank column in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge.

In that chaotic battle, Milo and a colleague were separated from their convoy with a truckload of ammunition. They were near the Belgian town of Leignon when their truck slid off the road into a ditch. Milo was left behind to guard the truck until a tow truck could return. He had instructions to destroy it if the Germans arrived. He turned down opportunities to leave. When he heard an armed column of Panzer tanks approaching, he burned

the truck and retreated into the local city. Over the course of the next 2 days and 2 nights, Milo waged a one-man battle, a one-man guerrilla war against the town's Nazi occupiers. He destroyed tanks; he destroyed trucks. He stormed the machine gun positions and engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with enemy troops.

When he was not protecting townspeople of Leignon, Milo would sneak out of town to warn approaching troops, allied troops, that the enemy was nearby. He saved many American soldiers' lives.

One evening, a freezing evening, the townspeople came to him and asked if he would go to church and protect them. The people wanted to go to church and he could not understand why. Well, it happened to be Christmas Eve, they reminded him. And he stood outside armed only with a pistol to protect them on Christmas Eve. As the people of Leignon celebrated, he stood guard as he stands guard now. On Christmas morning, Milo received his present when allied forces began their counterattack and surrounded the town. Milo didn't stop. He sprang into action against a German artillery hidden in a barn, and 18 Nazis surrendered to him. When Milo finally met the allied troops, they almost mistook him for a German spy. They couldn't believe that a single soldier could hold them off from this town and couldn't understand how a single American soldier could bring so many enemy troops into being captives.

For these deeds, Private Huempfer was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. The after-action report on Private Huempfer's deeds ends with these words, and I quote: "His gallantry, intrepidity and extraordinary heroism while operating within the very limits of the German units, without being ordered to do so, and when withdrawal could have been accomplished with honor and safety, reflect the highest standards and ideal of the military service and favorably demonstrated to the citizens of Leignon the courage and daring of the American soldier."

After the war, Milo Huempfer preferred not to talk about his experiences. This was common for many soldiers in World War II. His own children did not know any of what I just spoke about until his funeral, when Milo's comrades stepped forward to speak of their cherished comrade.

Despite his silence, Milo remained a committed patriot and dedicated to the men he served. Over the years between the war and his passing in 1985, Milo attended the funerals of over 900 veterans in Brown County, Wisconsin. He used his dress uniform so frequently that he wore it out. As a mark of respect and thanks, local veterans organizations paid to have it restored.

By naming this temporary community outpatient clinic building in Green Bay after Milo Huempfer, we are paying respect to one of Wisconsin's great heroes.

I would like to thank Milo Huempfnr's children, Jackie, Wayne, Geri and Milo, for their help and also his friend, Bernard Depry of Green Bay, who brought this request to my attention and worked tirelessly over the years to make this a reality.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2408. We are recognizing the deeds of a brave and noble man.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2408, a bill to designate the VA outpatient clinic in Green Bay, Wisconsin as the Milo Huempfnr Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic would honor an individual whose demeanor during combat in World War II exemplifies the concept of the army of one.

In 1944, Private First Class Huempfnr was stranded in the small Belgian village of Leignon after his truck was separated from its convoy and slid off the road. While in hiding in Leignon, Private First Class Huempfnr found that the village had been overrun by German troops. He proceeded, over the next 4 days and nights, to singlehandedly wage war against an entire German armored column consisting of tanks, numerous heavy gun emplacements, and hundreds of soldiers. During this period of time, Private First Class Huempfnr warned off numerous American and British troops from Leignon, who otherwise would have been slaughtered by the Germans occupying the town. He repeatedly refused to be evacuated on these occasions, staying to destroy additional German equipment, killing German soldiers in direct combat, and protecting the citizens of the occupied town.

Mr. Speaker, on Christmas Eve, British forces dislodged German forces using information collected by Private First Class Huempfnr. After over 72 hours on his feet, under constant threat and harassment from enemy forces, Private First Class Huempfnr retired to a household he had earlier defended.

For all of these accomplishments he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1973. After the war, Private First Class Huempfnr attended the funerals of as many veteran comrades as possible. Reports indicate that he participated in the burial of some 900 fellow comrades in arms over the years since World War II, attending in full dress uniform, honoring their service and repeatedly demonstrating his love for our Nation by showing the brave veterans of Brown County the dignity and respect that they had earned. He continued attending these funerals until a week before his death in October 1985.

Mr. Speaker, I support honoring this brave American veteran by naming this facility the Milo C. Huempfnr Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic. It is a fine tribute to a true patriot and true hero.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I again ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2408.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. I want to thank Mr. KAGEN for bringing this story and history of a brave American and a great hero for Wisconsin. I wish your guys from Green Bay, whether they be quarterbacks or heroes, would have names we could pronounce. But we thank you for telling us the story of Milo Huempfnr, and we look forward to the naming of the facility in Green Bay after him.

Mr. Speaker, the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) was established in 1918 by President Woodrow Wilson. It is the second highest military decoration of the United States Army and surpassed only by the Medal of Honor in order of precedence.

The DSC is awarded for extreme gallantry and risk of life and this extraordinary heroism must take place while the individual is engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States. The act of heroism must be so notable and involve risk of life so extraordinary as to set the individual apart from his comrades.

It is an honor for me to stand before you today to talk about one such individual—Milo C. Huempfnr.

Mr. Huempfnr was the most decorated serviceman in Brown County during World War II. In 1944, PFC Huempfnr committed acts of extraordinary bravery and heroism during the final European campaign of World War II.

On December 20, 1944, in Belgium, PFC Huempfnr was driving a truck loaded with ammunition that went off the road. Sending his only comrade back to seek help and safety, Huempfnr proceeded over the next 4 days and nights to wage war, single-handedly, against an entire German armored column.

During this time, he warned off numerous American and British troops from the area who otherwise would have been slaughtered by the Germans occupying the area.

After his military service he remained heavily involved in veterans activities.

H.R. 2408 would name the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the "Milo C. Huempfnr Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

Given his unselfish service to his country, it is only fitting that we name a Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague of Wisconsin, STEVE KAGEN, for introducing this bill and I urge the support of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2408.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2007, RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO THE VIETNAM VETERANS WAR MEMORIAL

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 680) condemning the actions of September 7, 2007, resulting in damage to the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 680

Whereas the Vietnam Veterans Memorial serves as a memorial to the 2,700,000 men and women in the United States Armed Forces who served in the designated war zone during the Vietnam Era;

Whereas 58,256 men and women died while serving in South East Asia or as a result of their wounds or a service-connected disability;

Whereas on Friday evening, September 7, 2007, the United States Park Police reported being notified of a light, oily, and unidentified substance that was spilled over portions of some of the names, panels, and paving stones of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial;

Whereas at least 14 of the 140 inscribed panels of the Memorial Wall were damaged; and

Whereas the National Park Service has determined that the damage was the result of an act of vandalism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives condemns all attacks upon the memory of veterans and their service to the United States, as exemplified by the incident of vandalism of September 7, 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

I rise in strong support of this bill which condemns the action that resulted in damage to our Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We all know that this memorial recognizes and honors the men and women who are veterans of our Nation who served in one of America's most divisive wars. The memorial grew out of a need to try to heal the Nation's wounds as America struggled to reconcile its different moral and political points of view on this war. In fact, the memorial was conceived and designed to make no political statement about the war. It was designed to bring us together. It was designed as a place where everyone, regardless of their opinion of the war, could come together, remember and honor those who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country. I think all of us, wherever we were during that terribly divisive time,